

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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R 181100 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3343

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 10906

EXDIS

E. O. 11652

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF LOCAL COMMANDERS

1. CHARGE ON JUNE 16 IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT GVN SPOKESMAN HAD TOLD THE PRSS THAT THE TPJMC WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE MEETING OF LOCAL COMMANDERS UNTIL MONDAY OR TUESDAY. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS UNFORTUNATE AS THERE WERE OBVIOUSLY PLACES WHERE SUCH MEETINGS WERE DESIRABLE. THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO LTG QUANG, NOW IN CHARGE OF TPJMC MATTERS UNDER THE PRESIDENT, RIGHT AWAY.

2. ON JUNE 18 BENNETT CALLED ON LUONG NGI KY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLICITCAL AFFAIRS, TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN, REFERRING ALSO TO A TELEVISED STATEMENT BY LT. GEN. THUAN SIMILAR TO THAT OF SPOKESMAN. WHEN KY TOOK UP SAME REFRAIN, WE POINTED OUT THAT THESE MEETINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE 24 HOURS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. WE ALSO NOTED THAT LOCAL COMMANDER MEETINGS WERE SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVERTING CONFLICT, ARRANGING FOR SUPPLY, AND OBTAINING HELP FOR THE WOUNDED, NOT RPT NOT TO DRAW BOUNDARIES OF AREAS OF CONTROL.

3. WE ALSO MADE POINT THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE GVN INTEREST TO CALL FOR A LOCAL COMMANDERS' MEETING AT TONG LE CHAN. HERE THE COMMUNIST COULD BE ASKED TO ARRANGE FOR A RESUPPLY OF THE GARRISON AND EVACUATION OF THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. TAKING THIS INITIATIVE WOULD PUT THE ONUS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH PARA 6 OF

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THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE COMMUNISTS.

4. KY, WHO SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THE LATTER POINT, SAID THAT
HE WOULD PASS OUR VIEWS ALONG TO THE TPJMC.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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